



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, CA 94607-4700
TEL 510.817.5700
TDD/TTY 510.817.5769
FAX 510.817.5848
E-MAIL info@mtc.ca.gov
WEB www.mtc.ca.gov

Memorandum

TO: Planning Committee

DATE: March 7, 2008

FR: Deputy Executive Director, Operations

W. I.

RE: Transportation 2035: Proposed Final Vision Policy Strategies

Recap of Vision Policy Strategies

Staff presented the Draft Vision Policy Strategies for this Committee's initial review on February 8, 2008. We subsequently circulated them to the Joint Policy Committee, Bay Area Partnership, MTC advisory committees and stakeholders for their review and comment.

The Vision Policy Strategies are derived from the lessons learned from the vision scenario analysis that was presented at the October 26 Bay Area on the Move Summit. Based on these lessons learned, staff identified five important policy areas for the Transportation 2035 Plan:

1. Investments
2. Pricing and Affordability
3. Focused Growth
4. Technology
5. Individual Actions

Staff prepared a statement articulating the vision for the Transportation 2035 Plan. In addition, for each of these five policy areas, staff has prepared a policy brief that explains where we are today, describes the challenges to overcome, and identifies policy strategies that will take us on a shared journey to get to where we want to be. For illustrative purposes, we sketch out what this "journey" might look like; we show a continuum of efforts and innovations that will help us move from today towards attainment of our vision in 2035. The continuum categorizes short, medium and long-term improvement strategies based available resources, the state of various technologies and/or the time needed to realize the full impact of improvements (mainly in the land use arena). **Attachment A** describes the Vision Policy Strategies.

A summary of the key messages heard from MTC Commissioners, the Joint Policy Committee, partner agencies (including CMA board members), MTC advisors and stakeholders is contained in **Attachment B**. Both the vision statement and Vision Policy Strategies contained in Attachment A have been modified in underline/strike-out type to reflect comments received to date.

Planning Process

The Vision Policy Strategies serve to inform the project evaluation process, influence the ensuing investment trade-off discussions, and help with benchmarking achievement of performance objectives over time. Staff sees this process unfolding through the following key steps:

1. Identify the most cost-effective projects/programs with respect to the performance objectives (i.e., the quantitative project evaluation approach which was approved by the Planning Committee in February 2008);
2. Assess how projects/programs advance the Commission's vision policy strategies (i.e., qualitative policy evaluation approach);
3. Debate the trade-offs among various investment strategies that consider both performance objectives and Vision Policy Strategies as part of the deliberations, as well as other considerations the Commissioners may bring to the table;
4. Determine which projects/programs we can afford within the revenues projected to be reasonably available to the region over the next 25 years (i.e., dollars and cents approach);
5. Develop an investment plan of projects/programs for the financially constrained plan; and
6. Identify an investment plan of projects/programs that would be funded with potential new revenue sources such as the regional gas fee, SMART district tax, or others for the unconstrained plan.

We will provide our partner agencies, the public and the Commission with a wealth of quantitative (performance analysis) and qualitative (policy assessment) evaluation results in May 2008. The evaluation results are intended to inform the investment trade-off discussions that will take place over the following few months.

As part of its deliberations, the Commission will take into account the (a) Three Es, goals and performance objectives set for the plan; (b) results from the project performance and policy assessments; (c) financial constraints, and (d) and input received from partners, stakeholders and the public. Ultimately, the Commission will exercise its policy discretion and decide on the program of projects/programs for the financially constrained plan in July 2008.

Schedule

Below are the upcoming key Transportation 2035 milestones:

Early May	MTC staff releases project performance & policy assessment results
May - July	Partners, stakeholders, the public and Commission to review evaluation results and begin investment trade-off discussions for financially constrained investment plan
July 11	Planning Committee approves Final Draft T2035 Investment Plan
July 23	Commission approves Final Draft T2035 Investment Plan
Aug.-Nov.	Prepare equity analysis, EIR, and air quality conformity analysis
December 12	Planning Committee releases Draft T2035 Plan & Draft EIR for public review
March 2009	Commission approves Final T2035 Plan

Recommendation

To allow as much time as possible for stakeholder review, staff requested comments by the March 14 Planning Committee meeting but plan to forward the entirety of comments received to the Commission on March 26.

Staff seeks this Committee's comments and the Commission's provisional approval of the Vision Policy Strategies so that we may proceed with the qualitative policy assessment component of the project/program performance evaluation. This provisional approval enables the Commission to revisit and make further refinements to the Vision Policy Strategies prior to adopting them as part of the final Transportation 2035 Plan in early 2009.

Ann Flemer

AF: AN

J:\COMMITTEE\Planning Committee\2008\March08\2a_VPS_PC_3-14-08.doc